

REMARKS

Claims 58-61 and 63-66 are pending in the present application. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies shown during the personal interview on March 10, 2010. This response is provided in accordance with the discussions during that interview.

Claims 59 and 63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant notes that claim 58 is the independent claim that includes the questioned language, not claim 59. Accordingly, claims 58 and 63 have been amended to clarify which terminal is which. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 58-61 and 63-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Takayama (U.S. Patent No. 6,332,133) in view of Schutzer (U.S. Patent No. 6,873,974). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The present application was filed on August 31, 2001. The Takayama patent was filed before that date, but issued after that date (*i.e.*, in December 2001). Thus, the Takayama patent only qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

However, the Takayama patent and the present invention were commonly owned as of the time of the invention of the present application. The Takayama patent was assigned to Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., by assignment recorded on September 8, 1998, at reel 009787, frame 0906. A change of name from Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. to Panasonic Corporation was recorded on November 20,

2008, at reel 021930, frame 0876. At the time of the invention of the present application, the inventors were under an obligation to assign the invention to Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. Thereafter, the assignment from the inventors to Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., executed on June 5, 2001, was recorded on August 31, 2001, at reel 012135, frame 0577. A change of name from Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. to Panasonic Corporation was recorded on November 20, 2008, at reel 021930, frame 0876.

For these reasons, the Takayama patent is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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